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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Journal of the English Agricultural Society.

PRESENT STATE OF THE SCIENCE OF AGRICULTURE IN ENGLAND.

[Continued.]

A deep soil, indeed, has this double advantage over a shallow one, even though both be equally sandy—that during dry weather, roots can descend deeper in search of moisture, and that moisture rises from below, by capillary attraction, more freely towards them. But where veins of clay are found interlarding, as it were, the sand, the advantage will be far greater, because the sandy soil will be brought now into that moderately adhesive state which will entitle it to be ranked as a loam. Indeed, where clay is not found on the very spot, it it may often be brought, as has long been the practice in Dorsetshire and in Norfolk, by horse-labor, from a moderate distance. It is worth remark that, in another part of this country, and on a different description of light soil, strong as is the disinclination of British husbandry for the use of the spade, great improvements have for a long time, over an extensive district, been effected by lifting clay from below and laying it upon the surface. It is the peat district of Lincolnshire to which we allude. Here the soil consists of light vegetable matter, half-decayed fibres of plants, clothed in its natural state with rushes or heath. A handful of it presents very much the appearance of rappee snuff.—At a depth varying from one to many feet, lies a very stiff blue clay of the consistence of soap.—When the land is brought into cultivation, trenches are opened down to this clay, and a heavy dressing of it is laid on the face of the ground, which three years afterwards is found to be imperfectly mixed in small lumps with the peat. At the end, however, of twelve years, after three such doses of clay have been given, a specimen which we have seen from this same ground, instead of a brown powdery substance like rotten bark, presents the appearance of a dark grey, rather stiff loam, not dissimilar to the garden mould which is usually met with round London, capable of bearing heavy crops of cole oats and wheat in rotation, being, in fact, the soil of a most valuable description of farm, which has been manufactured from the two sterile raw materials, pure peat and mere clay.

It might be supposed that the reverse of this process would also succeed, and that, as sands and peats are made firmer by the admixture of clay, clayey soils might be rendered more porous if sand were carted upon them. It has been, indeed, so supposed, and the attempt has been made, but no instance is known in which it has been found to succeed. The expense of laying on the large quantity of sand that would be required, must probably more than swallow up any profit that could be derived; and although cold lands with retentive subsoils have, in many districts, been much improved by covered drains, more or less effectively made, the hope of bringing them to a thoroughly free-working genial temper, had been, until lately, almost abandoned. Mr Smith, however, a manufacturer of Deanston, near Stirling, some years since applied his mind to this subject; and, as the practical farmer who has this year won the first medal of the Society, states Mr Smith's process to be the greatest improvement effected in agriculture since the introduction of turnip culture, (that is, for the last century,) it is impossible to pass it over, although, of course, its introduction is too new to be placed already altogether beyond the risk of disappointment. Mr Smith's mode of dealing with a clayey subsoil, which holds up in the soil the water that has fallen in rain, and thus exerts some unexplained evil influence on plants fitted for the food of man or of cattle, is as follows: That gentleman invented a heavy iron plough, resembling the common plough, but differing in this respect, that, having no mould-board, it splits the ground but does not turn it over; and he uses it thus:—at the same time that an ordinary plough goes along and turns over the surface of the wet land, the share of the subsoil plough following, passes through and splits the whole of the subsoil to the depth of 18 or 20 inches, and the rain water sinks, of course, so much lower. Mr Smith, however, does not allow the rain to lodge here: he has previously dug covered drains about three feet deep, made thus deep in order that his underground plough may have room to pass over the covered channel which is left for the water to flow along in the lower part of these drains after they have been filled in above; and he states that in this way he can not only produce, artificially, a porous subsoil instead of a close one, but that this clayey subsoil, having been so subdivided, becomes mellowed by the action of air and of water, and that thus, after a few years, a portion of it may be safely brought up by deep or trench-ploughing, and turned over upon the surface, so that the cultivated soil, by this third process, is to the same extent deepened. To whatever extent the Deanston system may be found applicable to the clay lands of England, a revolution will be at the same time effected in their mode of culture by the introduction of the turnip among them.

With regard to that portion of England which lies on a stratum that may be called rocky, much of it will be found to have the immediate subsoil of clay, and to fall therefore properly under the last head; and even where the subsoil is of stone, the stone may be so interspersed with clay, that thorough draining may be equally requisite. Where that stone is a dry gravel, it may be worth the trial whether the roots of some plants cannot be enabled to descend into it by means of the subsoil plough. Such an experiment appears, by a communication from one of our members, to have succeeded at Heckfield. A considerable portion of the stony soils belongs to the great chalk formation which, resting on the basis of Hampshire, flings its arms widely, in four directions, as far as the sea, through Dorsetshire, Sussex, Kent and Yorkshire. On this extensive tract another, and singular, mode of permanently improving the texture of the soil, by blending with it a part of the subsoil, has been long and successfully, though very partially, practised. Pits, like wells, are sunk in the field, by workmen used to the business, and from the bottom of these the best sort of chalk is brought up with a windlass, to be afterwards spread over the surface; which thus, in the winter months, when the operation should take place, that the lumps of stone may be shaken to pieces by the frost, presents at a distance the aspect of a field covered with snow. The benefit of this rather expensive operation has been long acknowledged, though its mode of action has not been explained. It is less surprising, indeed, where the upper soil of the chalk formation consists of a thin layer of reddish clay, left behind by the plastic clay formation; but even where that soil is a shallow sheet of earth, that appears to be made up of fragments of the stone upon which it rests, this ancient practice of laying on a fresh coat of that very stone is stated to be equally advantageous. Enough, however, has now been said to prove how much remains to be done for the permanent improvement of the English soil. Indeed, while it may with truth be affirmed that our husbandry, on the large scale, stands in the first rank, as far as the surface of the ground is concerned, it must equally be admitted, as regards the subsoil, to be yet in its infancy. There is scarcely a situation where, however wet or dry, or stony may be the natural ground, a kitchen garden, with a bed of mould two spades deep, may not gradually be formed by the constant, long continued care of the gardener. While the sand is stiffened, and the clay mellowed, and both deepened, the very stone is probably, by length of cultivation, worn down into soil. Nor can British husbandry be considered complete in this department until all the farms of this country, like those of Flanders, are brought into the same condition of garden-like temper and depth.

If we suppose the soil of a farm to have been provided with a free and healthy subsoil, the next subject to which the inquiry of agricultural science may be directed is, the manner in which that soil should be prepared for the reception of the intended crops; but it is unnecessary to do more than to touch upon one or two of the principal heads. The most simple and ancient of rural instruments, the plough, though probably much more than 2000 years old, has recently received great improvement, and the best construction of it is even yet matter of controversy. There is no doubt that, by giving a more suitable curve to that part of it (the mould-board) which turns over the earth which has been detached with the share, and by substituting iron for wood on its surface, the friction has been so greatly diminished, that the new ploughs, being in other respects also of a far better shape, effect a diminution in draught, which may be estimated within compass at the saving of half a horse's labor on a team of three horses; and the Scotch or swing plough is now very generally used with two horses, the ploughman holding the reins. Nothing shows more the necessity of communication among the agricultural body than that the old cumbrous machines, with a huge carriage in front and two large

wheels, drawn by four heavy horses, should still be retained even on the light soils of some of our southern counties. Still it is yet a question whether the advocates of the swing plough have not gone too far when they have asserted that there is no land so stiff in which it may not be worked by a pair of horses; and it is indeed almost admitted that, on parts of the London clay formation, they have been beaten by the strength of the ground. It is even doubted whether one wheel might not be advantageously restored to the plough; and those ingenious mechanicians, the Messrs Ransome, of Ipswich, have constructed a plough which admits of being used without a wheel, with one wheel, or with two. These doubts should be cleared up with regard to different soils by observation; and it may be worth inquiry whether ploughs of different constructions, with different amount of horse power, may not be applicable to the same soil in various stages of cultivation, in first breaking the stubble, for instance, on heavy land, and in the cross-ploughings which follow. The other ancient implement, the harrow, is confessedly a most imperfect one, as its downward pressure is insufficient, and in the wrong direction, for cleansing from weeds the ground which it scarcely penetrates. Mr Finlayson's harrow, however, as it is called, though in fact a new and ingenious implement, is little used by practical farmers in some of our southern counties; but this harrow, as well as the further improvement, inadequately named a scarifier, is not only efficient for cleansing the land, but may sometimes be made also to supply the place of the plough. The use of another instrument, the drill machine, a more complicated one, by which the seed is laid in regular rows, has lately become frequent in southern as well as in northern England, though it has established itself so slowly, that for a long time, travelling machines of this kind have made yearly journeys from Suffolk as far as Oxfordshire, for the use of those distant farmers by whom their services are required.

But, before the seed is sown, manure must have been applied, either immediately or in some former stage of cultivation; and here questions large and numerous open themselves to the inquiries, and demand the experiments of a body which aims at raising the art of husbandry to the rank of a science possessing definite laws. Whether farmyard dung should be applied, recently made or in a more advanced stage of fermentation; whether it should be laid on the field in the autumn, and covered over for the winter by ploughing alternate furrows only—a process technically known as raftering, from the ribbed appearance which it gives to the field; or should be laid on in the spring, immeately before the turnip is sown; whether its efficacy be increased by mixing it in heaps with earth, technically known as compost heaps; whether the manure of a farm should be applied entirely to the green crops; or whether, as is a common course, recommended by the hope of immediate gain, it should be shared by the wheat;—these are all questions in the minds of practical farmers, at least—as is shown by their opposite conduct upon these heads—which the science of agriculture, if it ever become a science, is bound therefore to answer. There is also, as to the very formation of farm manure, an important difference of management between ourselves on the one hand, and the oldest practical farmers, our neighbors the Flemings, on the other. The Flemish cattle are not allowed to run at large on the pastures, but are tied up in buildings, where they receive a daily supply of green food newly cut, and a tank is formed near at hand, which receives the runnings of the stalls, and from which the liquid manure is carried in tumbrils to the arable ground. Not only are our farm-yards managed less closely in this important particular, but, as our cattle are in the field for a great part of the twelvemonth, it may be questioned whether their droppings do not in a great degree lose their fertilizing property by the action of the atmosphere as they lie scattered upon the surface. There is no doubt that, on the other hand, rank tufts of herbage are produced by the excess of manure in spots of ground upon which it falls. The advocates of the soiling system, as it is called, have acted upon that system for centuries, and they assert that a very large saving is effected by the uniform consumption of the grass, which is another result of this mode of management. A system backed by such high and ancient authority, must surely deserve inquiry into its merits. This last question, however, is a double one, involving on the one side the comparative amount of fertilizing substance produced for the use of the soil, and on the other the beneficial effect of the food on the condition of the animals themselves;—but this second branch belongs to a distinct head of inquiry—the feeding of cattle.

(To be continued)

TRANSPLANTING TREES.

I notice in your valuable journal, an article in which one of the editors opposes his experience to the notion of a Boston brother, in regard to the proper time for transplanting trees. It may not be amiss to state for the benefit of those farmers who despise book-learning, that in this case, theory and fact agree. It is well known that all the food which plants draw from the soil, is absorbed by the extremities of the root fibres, or rootlets; and that the difficulty of transplanting, arises from the impossibility of preserving all those fibres, whatever care may be used in the operation. When a tree has been moved, it is deprived of a portion of its nourishment, till new fibres have been emitted from the roots in sufficient numbers to supply the place of the injured ones: and if many have been broken, or the tree is not able to replace them quickly, it languishes and dies. The best time for transplanting is evidently that at which plants are in the best state to emit new fibres, and best able to subsist with little nourishment from the earth; and the worst that at which these conditions are reversed.

In autumn, trees are employed in laying up a store of food for the coming year. As the leaves fall off, the sap thickens, deposites a saccharine substance on the sides of its vessels, and finally entirely ceases to flow, and the tree becomes torpid and remains lifeless through the winter. This then is not the time to transplant. Young trees may indeed be taken up at this season, and having been kept in doors, may be set out again in the Spring, without danger. But it is quite a different matter to put a plant into the ground when all its powers are going to decay, and it is not able to form a single new fibre, or even to preserve those it already has. Except for the shelter from the cold which the dirt round its roots affords, it might as well be exposed to the winter on a bare rock. In spring, however, the case is quite different. Then the plant derives its nourishment in a great measure from the saccharine matter deposited the preceding year, and is employed in putting out new fibres to absorb sap from the earth, and new leaves to elaborate it. If moved at this time, its means of living are hardly affected at all; only its situation is changed. Evergreens, however, may be transplanted at any time except when perfecting their fruit, as they have a constant flow of sap.

If you will allow me, it may be well to mention some other results which follow from the principles mentioned above. One of these relates to the proper time for cutting timber. The winter is not that time; for then the wood contains more soluble matter than at any other season. It is the soluble saccharine matter contained in timber, which by its easy decomposition, induces that of the woody fibre.

The liquid sap evidently has nothing to do with it, for it is all dried out in the process of seasoning. What is the best time, may admit of a question; but it must be after the saccharine matter has been exhausted in the spring, and before it has begun to be deposited again in the fall.

Trees should also be pruned in the spring, when new wood is forming; for then the wounds are soon healed; and the plants being in their most flourishing state, are best able to bear injury. But a wound made in the fall, remains open and exposed to the influence of air and water till the next season. For the same reasons grafting should be performed in the early part of the year, though not till the sap is in full flow.—*Jour. of Com.*

THE CONSERVATORY.

We advise our friends who are seeking amusement, to look in at the Public Conservatory. There are above one thousand Camellia Japonica plants, some of the largest now in full splendor, and others on the point of bursting their beautiful buds. Among them are at least twenty full grown trees. It is well known that the former possessor of this superb collection of Camellias, M. P. Wilder, of Dorchester, spared neither pains nor expense to procure the finest plants from the justly celebrated nurseries in Europe, and that the most recent and most highly estimated seedling varieties are comprised in it. But it is too well known that one of his motives for disposing of this collection to the society at a great pecuniary sacrifice to himself, was, the desire that his fellow citizens might conveniently and frequently enjoy the pleasure of viewing it. It is calculated that during the next five or six weeks several thousand Camellia blossoms will expand—hundreds are now in full bloom and contrast beautifully with the dark glossy foliage, the perfect cleanliness of which is highly creditable to Mr Donald, the gardener. Several of the Acacia tribe, the pride of the Flora of New South Wales, are likewise in beauty—as is also the fine Poinsettia pulcherrima, named in compliment to our former minister in Mexico, Mr Poinsett, who sent it thence to Charleston, in 1828, whence it found its way to Europe. This plant was presented by the Hon. John Lowell, of Roxbury. We are also informed that the society has recently received ten or twelve cases of plants from Rio Janeiro, containing about one hundred varieties of the curious *air plants* now attracting so much attention in Europe; most of these are beginning to vegetate in a small stove erected for this purpose below; these will no doubt be exhibited in the Conservatory as they come into flower. We trust the public will not fail liberally to support this establishment, which promises to become an ornament to the city.—*Transcript.*

From the Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

FINE WOOLED SHEEP.

Hopkinton, March 1, 1839.

Dear Sir :—I have seen in the last number of the Farmer's Monthly Visitor, page seventh, an account of the purchase and stocking with sheep of the Burleigh farm in Dorchester, by President Lord, of Dartmouth College. In the account given, a very unfavorable allusion is made to the fine Merino and Saxony sheep, as requiring the utmost care and the most tender treatment. I also find in the second number of the same work, page eighteenth, a declaration that the native New England sheep are more hardy and less liable to disease, than the finer breeds; and that an opinion is suggested that they may be kept at as good advantage. I am not prepared to say that the native sheep of this country may not be raised by the farmer at a profit, if they can he found ; but I know of none that are not more or less mixed with the finer kinds. I greatly misjudge, if the advantage is not very much in favor of the finer breds, and the finer the greater the profit. I am also extremely deceived if they are not kept through the year at as little expense as the natives, and at much less trouble. Native sheep are uniformly tall, long, lank, and coarse wooled; untame, great racers and expert jumpers ; vexing their owners, and frequently the whole neighborhood by visiting every field and enclosure they wish. The Saxony and Merino sheep, which produce the finest wool that is known in this or any other country, are shorter legged than the native breed, more round and plump in every part of them, and easily fattened. They are more quiet and peaceable in their disposition, and with ordinary care of fences, seldom if ever stray from the pasture where they are put. They afford mutton equal to any other kind ; their quarters being round and full, mild, tender, and fine flavored. They are the smallest sheep I have ever known. This I consider an advantage rather than a disadvantage. They are not like our oxen required to perform labor. They are kept for their flesh and fleece only, and from long observation I am convinced that it requires the same quantity and quality of food to make a hundred pounds of mutton, or a hundred pounds of wool, whether, it be given to small or large sheep.

As regards diseases of fine sheep, I know of none that may not be visited upon the natives, which are equally liable when brought together in large flocks. In my own flock I have never known any contagious disease, if I may except a flock of fine sheep of one hundred and twentyone which I took in the fall of 1829, for the term of one year. When I took this flock, they were all diseased and lame with the foot-rot. I found them extremely poor, and some of them unable to walk, and feeding upon their knees. During the year I lost nine of them by poverty and disease, and two by casuality. At the expiration of the term I divided equally with the other owner one hundred and ten old ones, and at the thirds, thirtysix lambs, all perfectly healthy and in good order. With this exception, I have never known any contagious disease to trouble any sheep I have had the care of. I seldom lose one in any way, and am equally fortunate with my lambs, when not troubled by foxes. At the yeaning season of 1839, one fox killed from my flock and carried to her young, seventeen lambs in four days and nights. I had a number killed at other times, and my loss in lambs by foxes that season was from fifty to sixty dollars.

I am one of those who believe things should be told as they are. I should feel hurt were I to lead any one astray from his interest by any thing that I have said, and as some proof of the truth of the forgegoing, I here give an account of the income of my own flock. My average number of sheep at the shearing season in eight years, from 1831 to 1838 inclusive, has been two hundred and fortyone. I have received in cash for sheep and wool sold from my flock during that time, four thousand, five hundred eightyfour dollars and seven cents ; giving a yearly income of five hundred seventythree dollars and one cent, or at the rate of two dollars thirtyseven cents and a fraction a head, a year.

When it is considered that six small fine sheep may be kept on the same food that would be required to keep five coarse ones, which I have no doubt is short of a reasonable estimate, a preference for the fine flocks will be more apparent.

I shall be likely to retain my partiality for fine sheep till some one gives an account of a more profitable flock of coarse ones of an equal number.

STEPHEN SIBLEY.

For the New England Farmer.

BERKSHIRE PIGS.

MR BRECK :—As many impositions have been palmed off on my brother farmers who have purchased what we *called* Berkshire pigs, I am induced to state a few facts and offer a few thoughts on this subject. Many pigs have been sold from droves passing through this State, Connecticut and Rhode Island, which do not resemble the true kind only as they have some black bristles mixed with white ; some nearly all black, of common breeds, have been sold for pure blooded Berkshire. Some drovers have bought up a lot of runts, unfit to breed from, in Albany and its vicinity, because they could be obtained cheap, and sold them out as they passed through the country, while some men in the vicinity of Albany, (Mr Bement informs us,) do not hesitate to sell half blood for the pure blooded Berkshire, they also are disposed of among the farmers, and the impositions are calculated to a create a prejudice against this excellent breed of hogs,—for after seeing a pig called Berkshire, supposing it a fair sample of the breed, many have supposed them no better then the common breeds. In view of these facts, I would suggest the propriety of our farmers visiting some establishments where the pure bloods are bred, and examining pigs that have been obtained of honorable breeders, before they reject the Berkshire hogs. We also think breeders ought to select the very best to breed from, and breed from them only, that the breed may improve instead of degenerating.

We are pleased with the principle adopted by H. S. Ramsdell, a breeder of Berkshire hogs in West Thompson, Ct., who breeds only from the *very best*, and in supplying orders for pigs, sending only those worthy to be bred from, reserving the inferior ones for the knife. Mr Ramsdell has taken great pains to obtain a lot to breed from, of the best form without regard to price. We visited his establishment not long since and found some of the best pure blooded Berkshires we have ever seen. At the fairs we have attended, or breeding establishments we have visited, we have never seen their equal: several persons in the adjoining towns who have purchased Berkshires previous to seeing his, engaged pigs of him on account of the stock being superior to their own.

We could but admire the fine form of a grandson of Mr C. N. Bement's sow 'Stately.' Mr R. informed us it was then 9 1-2 months old. On the tape being applied, we found the length from nose to root of tail, 5 feet 3 inches. I ought to add, as the residence of Mr Ramsdell is but one mile from the Norwich and Worcester railroad, our farmers along the railroad from Thompson to Boston, might conveniently supply themselves with pigs from his establishment. E. D.

Webster, Jan. 1, 1840.

WITCH GRASS.

MR EDITOR—Some of your correspondents have been striving to rid themselves and their neighbors of that troublesome weed, witch grass. Now I happen to know from experience one of the easiest and most profitable methods of destroying this grass.—This grass will never increase in pastures. It always finds its way into such land as has a warm light soil, and is most cultivated. Land abounding in this weed should be immediately converted to a sheep pasture, and in a few years it will be entirely eradicated.

My father once took a piece which was thickly set with it, ploughed it late in June, sowed it with winter rye and turned it into his sheep pasture.

The rye continued to come up for a year or two and was kept closely fed by the sheep, and in a few years the witch grass was exchanged for sweet clover and red-top. I doubt not but that this plan might be adopted to advantage on many farms that are overrun with this useless weed. It is folly to talk of digging it up when it has obtained a firm foothold. Land that is of a light thin soil can be changed from tillage to pasturing to great advantage. Pastures would be improved in this way, for it is bad economy to possess a pasture that will give only now and then a spot that cattle will touch.

Another method I have seen practised in ridding small garden spots of this grass, which is by laying boards closely over the ground for a season. This is much easier than to dig it up. While on this point I cannot help noticing one fault among gardeners. They are very anxious to prevent the weeds from going to seed during the first part of the season, but as soon as the plants get a little start, they suffer the weeds to take their own course. Consequently there is a fresh supply of seed for the succeeding spring.

If some of your correspondents will counsel me in killing thistles with as little labor and as much profit as I have advised them in killing witch grass, they will receive my sincere thanks.—*Farmer's Register.*

The Dahlia is a Mexican plant, and was introduced into this country about thirty years ago.

The average price of flour through the country at the last dates was $5 48 per barrel.

The Albany Evening Journal says, that a line of 225 boats, some days ago detained by the ice west of Utica, in the canal, were in motion, and approaching Albany, with flour and other merchandise to the value of nearly half a million of dollars.

HARD TIMES.

The following beautiful and eloquent remarks on the subject of hard times, are copied from an American magazine published in 1787. We know not who is their author, but they are worthy of the greatest of writers; and we republish them, as not altogether inappropriate to the manners and customs of the present times.—*Bost. Weekly Mag.*

"The scarcity of cash is a general complaint, and it has become so fashionable to complain of hard times, and the scarcity of money, that debtors seem to think that they have sufficiently satisfied their creditors, if they tell them the times are hard and money scarce. This has so long been the theme, that the people almost universally believe it, although it is a falsehood. Every generation and age thinks the former days and times were better than the present. This, however, is a mistake, founded on false surmises and vain imaginations. The original principles of human nature are the same in every age, and ever have been since the fall. Times are easy when men do their duty; but when they deviate from that, and enter the road of vice, indolence and licentiousness, then difficulties embarrass and troubles perplex them.

The complaint of hard times in this country is all imaginary. Indolence and extravagance in dress are the source from which all the evils so bitterly complained of, flow. Both reason and revelation teach us that the human race were to live in this world by industry, and to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. On the productions of the earth we depend for subsistence, and spontaneous productions are not to be expected. The earth must be cultivated before she will yield her increase. In a country like this, it cannot be expected that all the inhabitants should live by commerce; nor indeed but a very few in proportion to the whole. Yet in this country, the people, as it were, drunk with the idea of gain, if they can but get into the mercantile line, are crowding into it, and to appearance seem to think that the whole community can live by buying and selling European gewgaws. This, however, is a mistake which time must teach and reform. Experience is the only teacher mankind will believe; and when they have learned by a fair trial, that indolence and craft will not support them, they will turn to industry, and lead quiet and peaceable lives, in diligence and honesty.

Agriculture is the very soul and life of this republic: if that is neglected, difficulties will certainly arise. Our own manufactures must also be encouraged and carried on, if we mean to be a happy and independent people. For a few years past the farmers have to appearance, been vieing with the merchants in dress. They have neglected to manufacture their own wearing apparel; because, say they, our own manufactures are not so handsome as foreign, neither are they so durable or cheap. By this means they have reduced themselves to poverty, and now loudly complain of the hardness of the times. A different line of conduct must be adopted; industry and frugality must be the stability of our own and all other times.

In a free and independent state, where republican principles and sentiments are adopted by the people at large, the idea of equality breathes through the whole, and every individual feels ambitious to be in a situation not inferior to his neighbor. Among us the idea of inferiority, as of pursuing a mean employment or occupation for a livelihood, mortifies the feelings, and sours the minds of those who feel themselves inferior; and consequently the poor to their great injury, strive to be equal to the rich in dress, if in nothing else. The farmer in the field will be found clad in as delicate a garment as a merchant behind his counter. This is utterly wrong and cannot be supported. Let every one dress according to the business he is in. If a man's business is to measure off cloths, and deal out clean elegant goods to customers, he may as well dress neat and elegant as otherwise, and propriety dictates that he should. But if his employment be in the field, to plough and cultivate the earth, a different dress becomes him; and the old adage will ever hold true, "He that will increase his riches, must not hoe corn in silk breeches." A frock and trowsers are as becoming a dress for a farmer when laboring in the field, as a ruffled shirt, a velvet or silk vest and breeches, and a superfine broadcloth coat, are for the merchant in his shop. There is propriety, uniformity and beauty to be observed in every thing, and every thing is beautiful in its proper place.

The other day I went to see some farmers who owed me a trifle, and found them in the field at work. One was clad in a velvet vest and breeches, and fine worsted stockings—the other in a satinet vest and breeches, worsted stockings and a fine Holland shirt, with a ruffle at the bosom. I asked them for the money they owed me; and was told "money is exceedingly scarce; the times are very hard; and it is an impossible thing to get money." I offered to take stock or almost any other article; but they had nothing to pay me except land, and that they could not spare: and so my debt was discharged by inability. The reason why I mention this circumstance is to shew that the extravagance of people to decorate their bodies is the origin of their poverty; and the hardness of the times arises from a foolish pride. Every man is honorably dressed when he is dressed suitably to the business he is doing.

Agriculture by some is thought a very mean employment; yet those who esteem it such, I will venture to say are mere simpletons, and the true principles of honor are not in them. Is it more honorable to be servant to every body, to weigh but an ounce of indigo, to draw a quart of molasses, than to cultivate the earth, and reap the yellow harvest—to procure the necessaries and luxuries of life? The employment of a farmer is really the most honorable of any on earth. Where or what would be the mechanic, the lawyer, the physician, or the merchant, if it were not for the farmer?—Where or what would be the statesman, the prince, the emperor or the monarch, with all their brilliant equipages, were it not for the farmer? The branches are not so honorable as the root; let them not therefore, boast of their own gaudy appearance, and despise the root that bears them. The husbandman, surely, is worthy of much honor, as he is the foundation on which kingdoms and empires stand. Monarchs and emperors are supported by the industry of the husbandman, and all their greatness stands on his shoulders. Let him, therefore, be honored and respected, that his heart may be encouraged and his hands strengthened in his laborious and tiresome work."

A farmer at Gaysport, Pa., raised this season 800 bushels of potatoes from an acre and a quarter of land.

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

FARM ACCOUNTS AND FARM PROFITS.

Mr Editor—I was much pleased with the communication in your last number from A. E. T. of Philadelphia county, and I am glad that an article so plain, interesting, and calculated to place the profits of agriculture in a fair light, is to be followed up, as I infer from the heading of the piece, which is No. 1. Now I do hope that this writer, who it appears can hold the pen as well as the plough, will continue his essays for the benefit of his brother farmers. There are many subjects of great interest to the farmer that have as yet received little or no attention from agricultural writers. The subject of *Farm Accounts* is one of great importance, and I trust that A. E. T. will furnish us with a bird's eye view of his system, which I presume is a good one.

The system or practice of farming with us in Montgomery county is not essentially different from that in the more immediate neighborhood of Philadelphia—but our great error has consisted in not farming *well* enough; we have been too anxious to have *large* farms, even if partially cultivated, in preference to small ones in a high state of fertility. The desire to own many acres, has been the ruin of hundreds, and was the rock on which I was nearly shipwrecked. Some years since, when money was cheap and every thing saleable dear, I was induced to believe that my farm of ninetyfive acres was too small. True, I had lived above board, was entirely free of debt, and had abundance of employment; but still my farm was small, very small, indeed almost insignificant in comparison to some of my neighbors. Instead of being contented with what I had, and by still greater attention causing it to produce more abundantly than it had previously; the spirit of grasping after more, ambition, speculation, or whatever you may please to call it, took full possession of my mind—of course my days of tranquility were ended.

About this time it so happened that an adjoining neighbor had become a victim to the spirit of emigration, and having settled on locating in the west, offered his farm for sale. He had been revolving in his mind the propriety of this step for several years, and as it worked upon him, his farm became more and more neglected, until, in some measure, he lost the character of a clean farmer. The buildings on the place were so old and decayed, that they were considered of no value. The farm consisted of two hundred and twentyeight acres, subject to a mortgage of six thousand dollars, at six per cent., payable half yearly. This was no obstacle in my mind, "as the mortgage may remain for years." The day of sale came, and I was the fortunate purchaser; it being knocked down at eight thousand one hundred and twenty dollars, subject to the aforesaid mortgage. My farm of ninetyfive acres, had in the nine years I tilled it poorly, yielded me about two hundred dollars profit per annum; so I had about eighteen hundred dollars at command, but was compelled to *borrow*, a thing I never did before, about four hundred dollars.

I had now attained apparently the summit of my wishes—I was now a large landed proprietor! At first, I little thought of the collar on my neck in the shape of a mortgage, and sundry small obligations shortly to be met. I enjoyed myself finely indeed, but only for a short time, as the bubble burst, and I awoke to the cold and sober realities of my situa-

tion. True, I was a large proprietor, but that did not give sleep to my eyelids. My six months' interest came round, and was paid after many days' vexation. My coming crops, which fortunately were pretty fair, enabled me to keep along for that time, to support my family, and pay off the four hundred dollars; but it took all, and when that was gone I was in a deplorable condition. A large plantation, mostly in a bad state of cultivation, with poor fences, going rapidly to decay—the soil requiring a liberal application of enriching manures to give it life, and no money to purchase it, or to pay for sufficient help. But I resolved not to be discouraged, and though, by going into debt for various articles where I had credit, I was compelled to pay an enlarged price, yet I pushed on, resolved to do my best to weather the storm, and improve the purchase, at least in appearance, such as fences, &c. But instead of cultivating but a part, I very foolishly—as I fear is the case with too many of my brother farmers who occupy too much—undertook to cultivate the whole—the consequence was that my crops were generally light, especially on the new purchase, and not so good by odds, on the homestead. I saw my error, and determined, if possible, to retrieve it. By perseverance I was enabled to continue and make both ends meet, but as to laying up a dollar, I did not and could not, and I had almost become reconciled to my toilsome and care-worn life, when I was started on a new track.

In 1836 a young man, a stranger, who was soliciting subscriptions for an agricultural work, called at my house about evening. I bid him to stop for the night, which he did. In the course of the evening our conversation—confined as it was to agriculture—turned upon my embarrassments. Why, said he, it is the easiest thing in the world for you not only to slip the collar, but to do it to some purpose. I inquired how: he replied—Sell enough not only to pay your mortgage, but to enable you to lay in a noble stock of manure, and devote the same cost, labor and attention on what you have left as you did on the whole, and I will guarantee you success. But I can't sell—I have tried the neighbors for years, to no effect. But that is not the way—*advertise*, yes, *advertise very extensively*, not only in your county papers, but in those of the city, and the surrounding country; make your farm known every where. Sell off the first chance. He read me several articles about the profits of small farms well managed—of the great improvements in agriculture, &c.

In the morning I subscribed for his paper. He went his way, and I turned my attention to the duties of my farm. But his advice made so great an impression on my mind, that I could not rest until I had made the effort to sell in the manner he proposed. I accordingly encountered the expense; and one of the advertisements fortunately brought me a purchaser, cash in hand, who took two hundred acres at fortythree dollars per acre, or eight thousand six hundred dollars; so I had a trifle left, besides twentyeight acres of wood land. I was at once released from my trouble—but the gain—much as it may seem to some, can never recompense me for the intense suffering of mind which for years I had endured.

I promised my wife and children, that if ever I got well out of that speculation, that they would never find me engaging in another; and I will preserve my word inviolate. I immediately set about arranging for future operations. I was liberal in the application of manures to my old place—my fences were all put in excellent order—outhouses repaired, and all about or around the dwelling neatly whitewashed—better accommodations were made for cattle, &c., and now the old homestead not only looks as pleasant as ever, but is the abode of real contentment and rural enjoyment.

But this is not all—reading my agricultural works has stimulated me to endeavor to keep pace with the improvements—and what is a mystery to some of my neighbors is, that *now* on the old "ninetyfive," as they call it, I raise more saleable or disposable produce than I ever did, with the addition of the large farm. This is a fact. But it is easily explained: the three hundred acres were partially cultivated—the homestead is now in the highest state of fertility, and I have from the free use of lime been under the necessity of contracting for an additional barn on the premises. Before I purchased the addition, I laid by about two hundred dollars a year, but when I cultivated the whole I could scarcely make both ends meet. Now I am, thank Providence, doing better than ever. I am doing well, and intend to "let well enough alone," and not be led away by a spirit of emigration, the mulberry mania, or the making of beet sugar. I shun these things as I would a pestilence, but shall content myself with raising the sugar beet for my stock, which is increasing, satisfied that nothing is better calculated for them, or more advantageous for the farmer—the stock farmer especially.

Now I am going ahead without keeping accounts save certain memorandum books. I feel the want of a correct system, and I hope that your correspondent "A. E. T." or some person competent to the task, will furnish through the Cabinet, the information desired, for I consider it almost as important for the farmer to have a correct system of accounts as it is for the merchant or mechanic. J. J.

THE COTTON CROPS OF THE WORLD.

There is no subject connected with commerce or agriculture, which possesses a higher interest for the citizens of the United States, than the production and consumption of cotton. We have, on more than one occasion, devoted our columns to the insertion of information upon the subject; and our attention is particularly called to it just now, in consequence of a recent publication of a valuable letter, signed "Cotton Plant," in a spirited New York paper, called "The Whip." The writer commences by stating that the entire growth of cotton in the world is set down at 1,000,000,000 lbs. Of this 550 millions are supposed to be growir in the United States, 30 in Brazil, 8 in the West Indies, 27 in Egypt, 36 in the west of Africa, 190 in the West of Asia, 35 in Mexico and South America, except Brazil, and 14 millions elsewhere.

Thus, at 10 cents per lb., a price below which it has rarely ever fallen, this crop is worth 100,000,000 dollars. For the last fifty years, however, the value (though often fluctuating suddenly and widely) has averaged 19 1-2 cts. At this price the present growth of the world is worth $192,500,000.

Of this, about 350 millions of pounds are consumed and manufactured in England, about 150 millions in the U. States, 80 in France, 250 in China and India, 25 in S. America and Mexico, including Brazil; 35 in Germany, 45 in Turkey and Africa, 10 in Spain, 20 in Russia, and the remainder elsewhere.

The value of cotton manufactures in England is believed to be annually about 170 millions of dollars; in France at 70 millions; in the U. States at 60 millions.

The capital employed in manufacturing by machinery, is estimated in England at 200 millions of dollars; in France at 120 millions; in the U. States at 110 millions.

The consumption in manufactures of raw cotton in all Europe, in 1803, was estimated at only 60 millions of pounds. (Dic. of Span. Com.) The whole consumption in Europe, in 1830, was about 387 millions of pounds. In 1838, it is believed to be nearly 500 millions of pounds.

South Carolina and Georgia were the first states in this Union to grow cotton to any considerable extent. In 1791, two millions of pounds were grown in the Union—one and a half million of which grew in S. Carolina, and one half million in Georgia.

In 1801, forty millions was the crop of the United States—of which 20 millions grew in South Carolina, 10 in Georgia, 5 in Virginia, 4 in North Carolina, and 1 in Tennessee.

In 1811, the crop of the U. States had reached 80,000,000—of which 40 grew in S. Carolina, 20 in Georgia, 8 in Virginia, 7 in N. Carolina, 3 in Tennessee, and 2 in Louisiana.

In 1821, one hundred and seventy millions of pounds were growing in the Union, as follows: 50 millions in S. Carolina, 45 in Georgia, 20 in Tennessee, 20 in Alabama, 12 in Virginia, 10 in North Carolina, 10 in Louisiana, and 10 in Mississippi.

In 1828, the whole crop of the Union was 348 1-2 millions. Of this Georgia grew 75 millions, South Carolina 70, Tennessee 45, Alabama 45, Louisiana 38, Mississippi 20, Virginia 25, North Carolina 18, Florida 2, and Arkansas one half of a million.

In 1833, the crop of the Union had increased to 437 3-4 millions. Of this, 88 millions grew in Georgia, 73 in South Carolina, 70 in Mississippi, 65 in Alabama, 55 in Louisiana, 50 in Tennessee, 15 in Florida, 13 in Virginia, 10 in North Carolina and three fourths of a million in Arkansas.

The next year, 1834, the crop had increased to 457 1-2 millions, and was grown as follows: 85 in Mississippi, 85 in Alabama, 75 in Georgia, 65 1-2 in S. Carolina, 62 in Louisiana, 45 in Tennessee, 20 in Florida, 18 in Virginia, 9 1-2 in North Carolina, and in Arkansas one half a million. Subsequently, no certain data are in our possession; but the estimate at this time, is 550 millions as the whole crop of the Union.

Thus it will be seen, from 1791 to 1826, S. Carolina was the most abundant cotton growing state in the Union. In 1826, Georgia took the lead, and held it till 1834, when Alabama and Mississippi took the front rank. At this time, Mississippi is perhaps the most extensive cotton growing State in the Union. South Carolina and Alabama are next. North Alabama is beginning to deteriorate as a cotton country, while the worn lands in middle Tennessee are thought to improve for this culture—maturity, the vital desideratum, not being so easily allowed in the rank luxuriance of the fresher soils.

When it is remembered that the first cotton plant in the United States was raised in 1787, surely our readers will find reason for surprise at the wonderful increase that has accrued in little more than fifty years. Bold, indeed, must be the man who would venture to predict the wealth, greatness and power, likely to become our national attributes through the agency of cotton.—*Philad. Inquirer.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1840.

To the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture.

The Committee appointed to examine the claims and award the premiums on butter and cheese, exhibited in Boston on the 3d and 4th of December, 1839,

REPORT.

That, judging from the very diminished competition for the liberal premiums on both these articles, they are forced to conclude that the interest of the agricultural community in this exhibition has very much decreased.

In the exhibition of December, 1831, there were 54 entries of butter, and 16 of cheese, the amount of butter being estimated at thirty thousand pounds. On the late occasion there were 13 entries of butter and 8 of cheese, the quantity of butter being probably about 5000 pounds only.

In this absence of competition the Committee thought it their duty to fix, as a standard of excellence, that quality of butter which their experience has taught them may be attained; and keeping this in view, they were not satisfied that any of that presented was of first rate excellence. They believe that they have seen and tasted better dairies than any which came before them, and they therefore determined, under the standing rule of the society relative to premiums, to withhold the first premium of one hundred dollars, and to award gratuities to two very good lots of butter after distributing the second and third premiums. They proceeded on a similar principle in regard to old cheese, of which only two lots were presented, both in their estimation very respectable, but not superior.

After thoroughly examining and remarking upon the several lots, in which they were kindly aided by the experience and judgment of Messrs. John Hurd, Elijah Cobb, and N. A. Thompson, they unanimously awarded, to William Bachop, of Barnet, Vt., the second premium of fifty dollars for his lot of butter No. 10; to Luther Chamberlin, of Westboro', Mass., the 3d premium of thirty dollars for his lot of butter No. 8; to Daniel Chamberlin, of Westboro', a gratuity of twenty dollars for his lot of butter No. 6; and to Richard Hildreth, of Sterling, Mass., a gratuity of fifteen dollars for his lot of butter No. 3.

The premium of thirty dollars on *new* cheese the Committee unanimously awarded to Timothy Fisher, of Burke, Vt., for his lot No. 5; and a gratuity of twenty dollars, to the same person, for his lot of old cheese No. 6.

To David Lee, of Barre, they awarded a gratuity of fifteen dollars for his lot of old cheese No. 4; and to Ebenezer Tidd, of New Braintree, a gratuity of fifteen dollars for his lot of new cheese No. 7.

From the remarks of the Committee on the several lots of butter, it appeared, that in each there was more or less of neglect or error in the making or in the preservation of it. A very prominent neglect in *making* is that by which butter milk in any quantity is suffered to remain in the butter. It is a well settled principle that this is fatal to its preservation. No quantity of salt can prevent that substance from becoming sour and causing the butter to grow rancid. It can be all separated from the butter and it undoubtedly ought to be.

A very prominent error in preserving butter arises from the excessive use of salt. No more of this need be added to well made butter than is sufficient to make it palatable; but as this standard varies with the taste of different individuals, it is perhaps safest to use it sparingly, since no quantity can repair the evil of defective making.

The use of sugar in curing seems to be sanctioned by the best writers on the subject; but the Committee are of opinion that it should be employed in smaller quantities than is usual. When it is distinctly tasted it impairs the natural sweet flavor belonging to good butter, and is, in all cases, a poor substitute for it. It is also highly probable that in time it may become acescent.

On the whole the Committee cannot but exhort their agricultural friends to aim at a higher standard—to exert more care in the making as well as in the preservation of butter and cheese, persuaded that it is a branch of industry which will well repay the labour bestowed on it.

For the Committee,

December 14, 1839. H. CODMAN.

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We have the pleasure of laying the foregoing report before our readers, and of joining in the regrets which it expresses, that the competition for the munificent premiums of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society is very limited compared with what it should be.

That the competition from other States is not greater, arises from several reasons—the first probably is that the offers of premiums are not generally known in other States; or if heard of, it may not be known as generally that the competition is open to all persons. Another reason is, that distance prevents a competition from the great dairy States of New York and Pennsylvania, besides that their home markets furnish a quick demand for all the dairy produce which they make. It is true there have been claims heretofore from both these states; but this was rather accidental, the farmers who made the claims having had personal friends in Boston or its immediate vicinity, to take charge of samples when sent.

Why the competition is not greater from Massachusetts is owing to other reasons. Berkshire county may be considered as the principal dairy district in the commonwealth. But the commercial relations of Berkshire county are almost exclusively with New York; and there their butter is sent weekly, and their cheese with as frequent dispatch as the nature of the article will allow. The distance of the principal dairy portions of Berkshire county are little more than a half a day's journey from Hudson on the Hudson. Here the farmers convey their produce as often as it is in condition; it is then put on board the boats, and is in New York market in excellent order the next morning; and sold and the boxes returned for a commission of one or two cents a pound. It is to be considered, likewise, that the dairy husbandry of Berkshire county has been greatly reduced from what it formerly was by the introduction of sheep; and by another reason felt all over the country, the impossibility of procuring dairy women. The country is actually stript of this portion of its population by the various factories, by the demand from schools for female teachers, from the cities for dress-makers and servants, by the traders for strawbraiders and shoe binders, and by other occasions of demand; so that a female domestic or dairy maid is almost as rare as a cucumber in January. There seems to be no getting them upon any terms short of direct proposals of marriage; and at present we see no remedy in prospect, unless our Legislature in its parental concern for public comfort, should revive the good old patriarchal custom of polygamy, when Abraham had not only his Sarah but his Hagar also! We dare not advocate such a proposition, and feel that there may be some peril in even making the suggestion.

In Worcester county, which next to Berkshire, is the principal dairy county, the dairy products are sent to market as frequently as the case will admit; the butter every week and the cheese as often, and as soon as it is dry enough to hold together. It brings then as good a price as at any time, and the greener it is the heavier it weighs. Under these circumstances, few farmers are willing to come into a competition where so large a sample as three hundred pounds is required of the claimant. They cannot do it in many cases without disappointing their customers of their weekly supplies, which is a serious evil to both parties. Nor can they do it (unless they should obtain the premium,) without an actual pecuniary loss. For example, two of the competitors the present year could have sold the butter which they presented, every week at 33 and 37 1-2 cents per lb. We know that the butter from these dairies brought these prices through the season; and the supply did not equal the demand. Now taking into consideration the increased trouble and expense of packing their butter for keeping, the disappointment of their customers, the uncertainty of obtaining the premium, and then too of the price which they may obtain for their butter at the public sale after the exhibition, which, if we remember correctly, in the two cases referred to, was only 28 cents, it will be seen that the motives to competition are very much diminished. The same remarks apply in a degree to the cheese, which in general is sent to market once in three weeks; and which cannot therefore be kept by the farmer for exhibition but at a loss, unless he should be fortunate enough to gain the premium, and then he may not be fully indemnified, though the distinction may not only gratify his honest pride but give a celebrity to his dairy, which may afterwards be of much use to him.

The size of the premium, though expected to operate a directly contrary effect, has a tendency to discourage competition. A premium of one hundred dollars is a large affair in the eyes of most of our farmers. They are discouraged in the attempt to compete for it, from some undefined notions of the impossibility of obtaining it. To divide it therefore into three or four, would tend greatly to increase the number of competitors, without at all lessening the pains which would be taken to gain it in the preparation of the butter or cheese. The advantages of the honor in the sale of the butter or cheese are a sufficient compensation for any extra trouble.

We respectfully suggest, therefore, to the Trustees the expediency, for reasons above given, of dividing the premiums into a larger number, so as to encourage a wider competition; and to reduce the quantity required for exhibition, so as to open the competition to a class of farmers, who, for circumstances above named, now decline it. It is not the quantity produced that is the object of the society in the offer of premiums; but the quality of the product and the best modes of excelling in this matter; and these points would be reached by specimens of from fifty to one hundred pounds, as certainly and as well as by three hundred pounds of the dairy product.

The principles and views of the report perfectly accord with our own views. It must not be inferred, however, that the butter of Mr Hildreth, Mr Bachop, and the Messrs L. and Daniel Chamberlin was not of an excellent quality. But we do in our own name, as the committee have done in theirs, enter our absolute and uncompromising protest against allowing any buttermilk to remain in the butter; against using salt too profusely; against using any saltpetre; against sugar in any measure whatever; and against any coloring matter, especially a painter's drug or any thing unless it be the simple juice of the carrot. We say this particular-

ly, as not a week since we saw a lot of butter, made by one of the best dairy women in the State, rejected, and with good reason, because it was colored with annatto. If not actually injurious to health, the mixture is at least offensive to the imagination.

The Commissioner of Agricultural Survey has at his office a model of a machine, resembling a baker's kneading machine, for the purpose of expressing the buttermilk without applying the hand, which we think will commend itself strongly to the farmers' attention, and which he will be happy to show them. H. C.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Jan. 6, 1840.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 710 Beef Cattle, 120 Stores, 2150 Sheep, and 150 Swine. The swine were reported last week.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—We quote to correspond with last week. First quality, $6 25. Second quality, $5 50 a $6 00. Third quality, $4 50 a $5 25.

Barrelling Cattle.—Mess $5 50; No. 1 $5 00.

Cows and Calves.—Very few at market and we noticed no sales.

Sheep.—Lots were sold at $1 75, $2 00, $2 25, $3 00, $4 25 and $4 50. A few cosset wethers at $8 each.

Swine.—A very few were retailed from 4 to 5 1-2, and the remainder were sold in one lot at 3 for sows and 4 for barrows.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending January 5.

Jan., 1840.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	30	12	14	14	W.
Tuesday,	31	8	12	14	N. W.
Wednesday,	1	2	6	4	N. W.
Thursday,	2	4*	12	10	W.
Friday,	3	4	14	10	W.
Saturday,	4	10	18	15	W.
Sunday,	5	12	24	22	W.

* Below zero.

WELLES'S PREMIUM FOR APPLES.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, held in August last, it was

Voted, That a first Premium of *thirty dollars* be awarded on the second Saturday of January, 1840 for the best specimen of Apples, produced on or before that time from seedling trees, which shall have been brought into notice since the year 1829.

That a second Premium of *twenty dollars*, and a third Premium of *ten dollars*, be awarded at the same time for the two next best similar specimens.

That the quantity of each shall not be less than four dozen.

The Committee on Fruits are particularly requested to meet at the Rooms of the Society on Saturday, the 11th day of January next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of awarding the Premiums above mentioned, also for awarding the Premiums on Fruits for the year 1839.

E. M. RICHARDS, *Chairman.*

December 18. 4t

BONE MANURE.

The subscriber informs his friends and the public, that after ten years experience, he is fully convinced that ground bones form the most powerful stimulant that can be applied to the earth as a manure

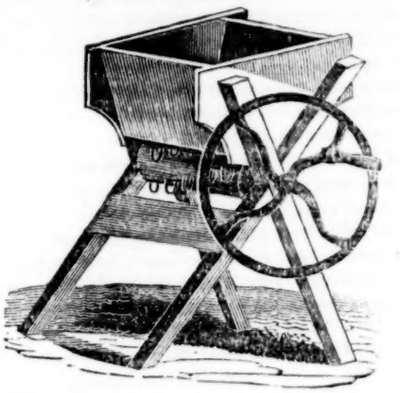
He keeps constantly on hand a supply of Ground Bone, and solicits the patronage of the agricultural community. Price at the Mill 35 cents per bushel; put up in casks and delivered at any part of the city at 40 cents per bushel, and no charge for casks or carting

Also, ground Oyster Shells

Orders left at the Bone Mill, near Tremont road, in Roxbury, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, No 52 North Market Street, or through the Post Office will meet with prompt attention

NAHUM WARD.

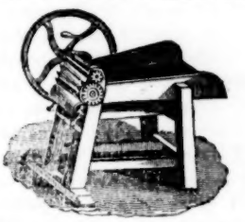
VEGETABLE CUTTER.



Willis's New Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine is calculated for cutting up vegetables and esculent roots for fodder, and is one of the most useful and economical machines that the farmer can use. The subscribers feel great confidence in recommending this machine to the public; they are aware that it has been long wanted and they now offer a machine that cannot fail to give satisfaction upon a fair trial. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels per minute, in the best possible manner, and is not liable to get out of order, being made in the most substantial manner. No farmer should be without one of them. For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse, 51 and 52 North Market Street.

December 18. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.



JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it very efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

IMPROVED PIGS FOR SALE.

For sale three, improved Boars of the following breeds;

One half Berkshire and half Macky.

One half Berkshire, quarter Macky and quarter Mocha.

One half Berkshire and half a large English breed, name not known.

The above boars are two years old; they are disposed of on account of keeping young sows of their get for breeders. They will be sold cheap if applied for soon. For terms, &c. apply to J. BRECK & CO.

November 13.

WANTED.

From 5 to 10 tons of *Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel and Sugar Beets.* Apply at C. N. HARTSHORN, corner of Washington Street, and Pleasant Street.

Boston, December 13, 1839. 2t

ROHAN POTATOES,

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, No. 52 North Market Street, at $5 per barrel.

October 16. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

			FROM	TO
Alum, American,		pound	5	5½
Ashes, Pearl, per 100 lbs.			5 50	5 62
Pot, " " "			5 00	5 12
Beans, white, Foreign,		bushel	1 62	2 00
" " Domestic,		"	2 00	2 00
Beef, mess,		barrel	14 00	14 50
No. 1.		"	12 00	12 50
prime,		"	10 00	10 50
Beeswax, white,		pound		
yellow,		"	28	35
Bristles, American,		"	35	70
Butter, shipping,		"	11	13
dairy,		"	17	20
Candles, mould,		"	13	14
dipped,		"		
sperm,		"	40	41
Cheese, new milk,		pound	10	
Cider,		dozen	1 50	1 75
refined,		barrel	2 50	4 50
Bone Manure,		bushel		35
in casks,		"		40
Feathers, northern, geese,		pound		
southern, geese,		"	37	46
Flax, (American)		"	9	12
Fish, Cod, Grand Bank,		quintal	2 50	2 57
Bay, Chaleur,		"	2 20	2 27
Haddock,		"	1 25	1 50
Mackerel, No. 1,		barrel	11 25	11 50
No. 2,		"	9 50	10 00
No. 3,		"	6 00	6 25
Alewives, dry salted, No. 1.		"	6 00	6 25
Salmon, No. 1,		"	22 00	23 00
Flour, Genesee, cash,		"	6 37	6 50
Baltimore, Howard street,		"	6 50	6 62
Richmond canal,		"		6 50
Alexandria wharf,		"		
Rye,		"	4 00	4 25
Meal, Indian, in bbls.		"	4 00	4 12
Grain: Corn, northern yellow,		bushel		65
southern flat, yellow,		"	70	72
white,		"	64	66
Rye, northern,		"	75	80
Barley,		"	75	80
Oats, northern, (prime)		"	42	45
southern,		"	33	35
Grindstones, pr ton of 2000 lbs. rough,			18 00	20 00
do. do. do. finished,			28 00	30 00
Hams, northern,		pound	9	10
southern and western,		"	7	8
Hay, best English, per ton,			16 00	18 00
Eastern screwed,			13 00	14 00
Hops, 1st quality,		pound		20
2d quality,		"		18
Lard, Boston,		"		9
southern,		"	7	8
Leather, Philadelphia city tannage,		"	29	30
do. country do.		"	25	27
Baltimore city tannage,		"	26	28
do. dry hides,		"	22	24
New York red, light,		"	21	23
Boston, do. slaughter,		"	21	22
Boston dry hides,		"	20	22
Lime, best sort,		cask	85	90
Molasses, New Orleans,		gallon	27	30
Sugar House,		"	50	55
Oil, Sperm, Spring,		"	1 10	1 12
Winter,		"		1 20
Whale, refined,		"	50	55
Linseed, American,		"	65	66
Neat's Foot,		"	95	
Plaster Paris, per ton of 2200 lbs.			2 87	3 00
Pork, extra clear,		barrel	18 00	
clear,		"	15 00	16 00
Mess,		"	12 00	13 00
Prime,		"	11 50	12 00
Whole Hogs,		pound	5	6
Seeds: Herd's Grass,		bushel	2 50	3 00
Red Top, southern,		"	80	1 00
northern,		"		1 50
Canary,		"	2 25	2 50
Hemp,		"	2 25	2 50
Flax,		"	1 37	1 62
Red Clover, northern,		pound		
Southern Clover, none,		"		
Soap, American, Brown,		"	7	
" Castile,		"	12	
Tallow, tried,		"		8
Teazles, 1st sort,		pr M.	2	3 00
Wool, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,		pound		
American, full blood, washed,		"		
do. 3-4ths do.		"		
do. 1-2 do.		"		
do. 1-4 and common,		"		
Northern pulled. Pulled superfine,		"		
No. 1,		"		
No. 2,		"		
No. 3,		"		

MISCELLANEOUS.

NATURE.

BY ROBERT C. WATERSTON.

I LOVE thee, Nature,—love thee well—
In sunny nook and twilight dell,
Where birds, and bees, and blossoms dwell,
And leaves and flowers;
And winds in low sweet voices tell
Of happy hours.

I love thy clear and running streams,
Which mildly flash with silver gleams,
Or darkly lie, like shadow-dreams,
To bless the sight;
While every wave with beauty teems,
And smiles delight.

I love thy forest deep and lone,
Where twilight shades are ever thrown,
And murmuring winds with solemn tone,
Go slowly by,
Sending a peal like ocean moan,
Along the sky.

I love to watch at close of day,
The heavens in splendor melt away,
From radiant gold to silver gray,
As sinks the sun:
While stars upon their trackless way,
Come one by one.

I love, I know not which the best,
The little wood-bird in its nest,
The wave that mirrors in its breast
The landscape true,
Or the sweet flower by winds caressed,
And bathed in dew.

They all are to my bosom dear.
They all God's messengers appear—
Preludes to songs that angels hear—
Mute prophecies—
Faint types of a resplendent sphere
Beyond the skies!

SILK FROM THE SPIDER.

In a late number of Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, there is an interesting article on the subject of Silk from the Spider, from which we make an extract:

"Some years ago the Society of Arts conferred one of their honorary medals on a gentleman of the name of Rolt, for obtaining silk from the garden spider, *aranea diadema*. This is the insect whose webs in autumn are so conspicuous on the surface of shrubs, and in other situations. On allowing one of these animals to crawl over his hand, Mr Rolt found that it drew a thread with it wherever it went. He likewise, without any difficulty, wound some of this thread over his hand, finding that the spider continued spinning while the thread was winding up. On this hint he connected a small reel with the steam engine of the factory in which he was occupied, and, putting it in motion, at the rate of 150 feet per minute, found that the spider would thus continue to afford an unbroken thread during from three to five minutes. The specimen of this silk which Mr Rolt presented to the society, was wound off from twentyfour spiders in about two hours. Its length was estimated at 18,000 feet; its color was white, and its lustre of metallic brilliancy, owing, probably, to its great opacity. He did not attempt to combine two or more filaments into one winding, nor to form it into thread by throwing. The thread of the garden spider is so much finer than that of the silk-worm, that the united strength of five of the former is, according to Mr Rolt, equal to only one of the latter; and assuming that the weight is in proportion to the strength, and that a spider will yield twice a year a thread 750 feet in length, while that produced by a single silk-worm is 1900 feet, it follows that the produce of one silk-worm is equal to that of 63 spiders. Now, says the Report in the Society's Transactions, 'as on an average it takes about 3500 silk-worms to produce a pound of silk, it would take about 22,000 spiders to produce an equal quantity. Besides, spiders are not so easily confined as silk-worms, and whenever two come in contact a battle ensues, which ends in the destruction of the weaker one. Spiders kept for silk must therefore be each in separate dens or cells; and the apparatus contrived by Mr Rolt for this purpose, although very ingenious and well adapted to carry on a course of experiments with a hundred or two, would manifestly be wholly inapplicable to any purpose of commercial utility.'

"But a gentleman of Languedoc went a great deal further than the English experimenter, for he established a manusacture of spider silk, and so far succeeded that he made gloves and stockings from the fibres of the web. The great impediment, however, to his complete success, was the implacable hostility of these insects to each other. Reaumur placed 5000 in 50 different cells, and the larger destroyed the smaller, till only one or two were left in each cell. But there is a species of spider noticed by Dr Walsh in his travels in Brazil, to which this objection does not apply. Here the insect was not solitary but gregarious; and colonies of more than 100 occupied the same web. The doctor's account of it is as follows:—'Among the insects is an enormous spider, which I did not observe elsewhere. In passing through an opening between some trees, I felt my head entangled in some obstructions, and on withdrawing it my light straw hat remained behind. When I looked up, I saw it suspended in the air, entangled in the meshes of an immense cobweb, which was drawn like a veil of thick gauze across the opening, and was expanded from branch to branch of the opposite trees, as large as a sheet, ten or twelve feet in diameter.—The whole of this space was covered with spiders of the same species *(aranea maculata)* but of different sizes; some of them, when their legs were expanded, forming a circle of six or seven inches in circumference. They were particularly distinguished by bright spots. The cords composing the web were of a glossy yellow, like the fibres of silk-worms, and equally strong. I wound off several on a card, and they extended to the length of three or four yards.' There is here a fair field for the Brazilian speculator. The spider's web, which, in single threads, could support a straw hat, must be much stronger and tougher than the frail tissues of our own country, and might certainly be manufactured into articles of wearing apparel, if a proper quantity of it could be obtained. As these gigantic spiders of Brazil are not eaters of their own species, large colonies of them might be maintained with ease, and, we doubt not, advantage to the experimenter."

"Holloa, lend us your penknife?" "I can't—I haven't got any! *Besides*, I want to use it myself."

TRUTH.—Adhere always rigidly and undeviatingly to truth; but while you express what is true, express it in a pleasing manner. Truth is the picture, the manner is the frame that displays it to advantage. If a man blends his angry passions with his search after truth, become his superior by suppressing yours, and attend only to the justness and force of his reasoning. Truth, conveyed with austere and acrimonial language, seldom has a salutary effect, since we reject the truth, because we are prejudiced against the mode of communication. The heart must be won before the intellect can be informed. A man may betray the cause of truth by his unreasonable zeal, as he destroys its salutary effects by the acrimony of his manner. Whoever would be a successful instructer, must first become a mild and affectionate friend.

WONDERS OF CULTIVATION.—There is scarcely a vegetable which we now cultivate, that can be found to grow naturally. Buffon has stated that our wheat is a fictitious production, raised to its present condition by the art of agriculture. Rye, rice, barley, or even oats, are not to be found wild, that is to say, growing natural in any part of the earth, but have been altered by the industry of mankind from plants not now resembling them, even in such a degree as to enable us to recognize their relations. The acrid and disagreeable *opium graveolens*, has been transformed into delicious celery, and the *colewort*, a plant of scanty leaves, not weighing altogether half an ounce, has been improved into cabbage, whose leaves alone weigh many pounds, or into the cauliflower of considerable dimensions, being only the embryo of a few buds, which in their natural state would not have weighed as many grains. The potato again, whose introduction has added millions to our population, derives its origin from a small bitter root, which grows wild in Chili and Monte Video.

A few days ago, a butcher in this neighborhood, who has always been considered "wide awake," lost a shoulder of mutton: and having ascertained that it had been stolen by a dog belonging to a certain attorney, he lost no time in repairing to its owner, and accosted him as follows;—"Pray, sir, if a dog comes to my shop and runs away with a joint of meat, cannot I make the owner pay for it?" "Certainly," replied the attorney. "Then I will thank you for 3s. 9d., which is the price of a shoulder of mutton your pointer has just stolen from me." The lawyer paid the money, and the knight of the cleaver thanking him and wishing him good morning, was leaving the office; but the solicitor said, "Stay sir, I must trouble you for my fee. You came to consult me, I gave you my opinion, and the charge is 6s. 3d." The butcher looked exceedingly "sheepish," but instantly paid the amount, and returned home with the loss of his mutton, and an additioual 2s. 11d.—*English paper.*

Foote advised a gentleman who desired to attend a masquerade ball in a *new* character, to "go sober."

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